

Coming Back



Superintendent's Message

Dr. David Daigneault

We've all endured setbacks over the last two years with the pandemic. But as I told teachers during our annual Back-to-School faculty meeting, the comeback is always better than the setback.

I also thanked and congratulated our staff for their tireless efforts as they keep climbing, even in the midst of difficult circumstances, and I reminded them how far we've come.

Even just over the summer, we completed many repairs and renovations throughout the district. Our Maintenance Department, under the new leadership of Joe Ward, renovated the Old Central Office and moved in our Special Education team from across town at the old Lizzie Horn school.

At Grenada Middle School, Maintenance removed lockers from the 8th grade hall, painted the walls, and installed LED lights in the hallway and classrooms. Construction began on a new drop-off area for Pre-K at the Red Top that will keep our youngest students out of the elements on rainy days.

They completed a new phase of our Balloon Quest interactive science museum for grades 3-8 at the Armory. In the tradition of our Kidzeum and Discovery Lab at the elementary schools, this educational attraction will astound when it opens next year.

Our Technology Department has completed a network update that took two years of planning. Over 56 miles of cable were replaced with hundreds of new access points and new hardware that makes our growing computer network much faster and more powerful. We also replaced over 1,200 Chromebooks and three computer labs across the district, all of which encompassed a \$700,000 tech upgrade.

We learned this summer that the Green Top has once again been recognized as a Project Lead the Way Distinguished School. That makes three years in a row!

In our upper grades, we continue to add cutting-edge, challenging courses at the high school. New Project Lead the Way offerings in aerospace engineering, computer science, and cybersecurity will prepare students for careers in the most cutting-edge new fields.

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Continued on page 8

School Reclassification Raises the Stakes for GHS Athletes



Photos by Jamie Kornegay

GHS Chargers head football coach Ashley Kuhn demonstrates blocking maneuvers at morning football practice this summer. His team — including (l to r) Zytavion Clay, Tavares Johnson, Jalon Townes, and Chris Booker — is prepared to face stiffer competition as they move up to 6A classification this football season.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Last fall's school enrollment survey by the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) bumped GSD up from 5A to 6A classification.

That means, for at least the next two years, GHS sports teams will face stiffer competition from higher-populated schools in the state.

GSD Athletic Director Lyle Williams said higher enrollment at GHS last fall pushed the district into the next classification. "Only a little over a dozen kids made the difference between 5A and 6A," Williams said.

The 6A classification is determined by the state's top 32 most populated high

schools. Grenada's Region 2 division includes some of the highest-performing teams in the state: Clinton, Germantown, Madison Central, Murrah, Oxford, Starkville, and Tupelo.

"The competition is steeper, and it's going to be tougher to win," said Williams. "But I believe the coaches will find a way to compete."

Head football coach Ashley Kuhn confirms that 6A Region 2 is the state's toughest division. He said many of the schools his team will face have twice as many students in the general population as Grenada. That's more athletic talent to choose from and a higher probability of success.

"We're not being picked as a front-runner, but those schools know we won't

be a pushover either," Kuhn said. "We can use that underdog mentality to our advantage."

Kuhn, who has served as head coach of the Chargers for 11 seasons, said Grenada was a 6A school when he was hired. He coached in the division for his first four years and said that during their last two seasons in 6A, the Chargers had winning records and made the playoffs.

"On the bright side, our kids will get to play on a big stage in front of a lot of people," Kuhn said. "They'll get to compete against the best, and they'll have a lot of college scouts' eyes on them."

The coach said he talked to his players about the move, and they seem ready for the challenge. "The kids know it's going to be tough, but they have a more positive attitude than anyone," he said. "They just want to play ball."

While some Grenada teams face an uphill battle with the reclassification, others see an opportunity to break free and face new competitors. Leslie Lancaster, head coach of Lady Chargers Softball, said her team struggled every year in 5A to best Neshoba Central, the number-one high school team in the country with eight straight state championships. The Lady Chargers, meanwhile, were able to beat 6A competitors Tupelo, Southaven, and Desoto Central last year.

"When it comes to softball, I actually think 5A is a tougher division," Lancaster said. "To be honest, I'm ready to get out of there. Bye!"

See "6A"
Continued on page 6

GES 4-5 Student Wins Farm Bureau's Ag Art Contest



(l to r) Grenada Elementary 4-5 art teacher Pam Boykin congratulates entering fifth grader Snow Sundhu, a winner in Farm Bureau's Ag Art contest, along with Tange James, Farm Bureau women's chair. James said Snow was one of six Mississippi students in grade 1-6 to win a \$75 gift card. Her art will be featured in Farm Bureau's 2022 wall calendar.

AmeriCorps Member



By Gwen Woodson
AmeriCorps Director

It is Mallie Penn’s mission to impact the lives of children. She’s been doing just that at the Grenada Elementary School since 2019.

“I applied to be an AmeriCorps member because I truly enjoy working with kids,” Penn said. “I have recently become Team Leader on the K-1 side. The AmeriCorps program has impacted my life in so many ways, but most importantly, it has helped me to follow my dreams and get more familiar with the classroom.”

Each year, AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 members who serve at 21,000 locations throughout the United States. The Grenada School District has hosted AmeriCorps members for the last 12 years in the role of tutors.

Penn is responsible for tutoring over 20 students during the school year. There are over 1,000 students involved in the tutoring program.

“I have always wanted to become a teacher,” Penn said. “The students impact my life daily as I help them achieve their goals and learn things they didn’t think they could learn.”

Penn is a mother of three beautiful children: Kaden Holman, 7th grade; Kyler Penn, 5th grade; and Kinsley Penn, 2nd grade. She is a member of First Baptist Church and attended Grenada High School. Her hobbies are spending time

with her family, riding at the lake, shopping, and riding four-wheelers. Penn’s motto in life is, “Every day is a second chance! Just keep Faith.”

“Because of my time in AmeriCorps, I have learned leadership skills and patience,” Penn said. “I feel like I am a better person because of it. I have worked in restaurants since I was a teenager and wanted something more for me and my family.”

While in AmeriCorps, Penn has volunteered her time to tutoring at the Boys & Girls Club, distributing food packages at the Grenada Food Pantry, and participating in the Martin Luther King Day of Service.

Mallie is a great team leader who loves to get things done. I love her energy and her commitment to service and leading her team. She’s making the most of her AmeriCorps experience and I am blessed to have her on my leadership team.

“AmeriCorps has helped me pursue my dream by allowing me to afford college, and it helped me to get my foot in the door,” Penn said. “I also have a better understanding of how to navigate the school district’s daily schedule. It is helpful to see that every teacher has their own teaching style, and it is so awesome to watch and learn from them. When it is my turn, I will be well prepared.”

In exchange for a year of service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award of \$6,195 that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. Penn plans to use her education award to get her teaching degree.

“My advice to future members is to get plenty of rest and be ready to serve,” Penn said. “Always keep a smile on your face and be compassionate, for you may never know how you will change a child’s life.”

AmeriCorps is administered by Volunteer Mississippi and the Corporation for National and Community Service. It is part of a White House initiative to foster a culture of citizenship, service, responsibility, and help all Americans answer the President’s Call to Service.

For more information about the Grenada School District AmeriCorps program, contact program director Gwen Woodson at gwoodson@grenadak12.com. For more information about AmeriCorps, visit www.americorps.gov

Grenada School District is applying for the Nita Lowery 21st Century Learning Grant for Grenada Middle School and Grenada High School.

Sept. 7	Oxford	Home
Sept. 13	Tupelo	Home
Sept. 20	South Panola	Away
Sept. 27	Oxford	Away
Oct. 4	Tupelo	Away
Oct. 11	South Panola	Home
Oct. 18	Cleveland Central	Away

Vince Marascalco Presents Funds in Honor of Judge Tallant



Vince Marascalco (center) presented a \$10,000 donation to Grenada P.T.O. in honor of the late Honorable Judge Jimmy Tallant. The donation will be split among the four grade schools at GSD to purchase supplies and fund teacher projects. PTO representatives from each school — (left) Allye Douglas of GES 4-5 and Kathryn Shirley (right) of GES PreK-3 — accepted the donations at GSD’s back-to-school faculty meeting Aug. 2. Teachers will have the opportunity to write grant proposals based on their instructional needs for their students and classrooms. Grants will be evaluated and awarded by a committee from each school. PTO representatives who accepted donations but are not pictured include Ginger Merriwether of GMS and Terry Lane of GHS.

COVID-19 Vaccine Drive Held at GSD



In accordance with the Mississippi State Department of Health’s request for school districts to offer accessible vaccine locations, Grenada School District teamed up with University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) to offer free COVID-19 vaccinations at the Grenada Armory on Aug. 2. Members from the UMMC team who facilitated the event were (l to r) Jeremy Mason, Lauren Dees, Alexis Kendall, Meagan Ray, Reba Rogers, Heather Rozier, Sonia Simpson, Chelsea Mims, Dimitri Blunt, and John Farrish. The Pfizer vaccine requires two shots to be effective against COVID-19, so the UMMC is scheduled to administer the second dose at the Armory on Aug. 23.

NJROTC Status Reinstated at Grenada



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

Chief Newtroin Foreman (bottom right) instructs cadets Bailey Bowen (left) and Ian McCullough (right) in competitive drone skills. The unit’s drone team is one of several recent academic activities added to the military training program, which was reinstated to full NJROTC status last spring.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Last spring, the military training program at Grenada School District saw its status reinstated from NNDCC (National Naval Defense Cadet Corps) to full NJROTC (Naval Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps). The unit’s upgrade achieves a seven-year goal and marks a turning point for the active program.

Chief Newtroin Foreman, leader of the Grenada unit, said the Navy sponsors a limited number of accredited programs in the country. Over the course of seven

years, the local unit made it their “number-one mission” to work its way onto the list.

Now, with Grenada’s upgraded status, the Navy will invest more in the program, including funds for textbooks, uniforms, and classroom equipment, as well as offsetting travel expenses.

“This reinstatement is a big deal for the district,” said Foreman. “It allows Grenada a fully accredited program, and it allows us to shine.”

Among the criteria needed to maintain NJROTC status is keeping an enrollment

of at least 100 cadets for two consecutive years, which demonstrates the program’s vitality as well as the school’s commitment to the unit.

Another requirement is bringing in a second instructor. Foreman said Chief Angela Everett will join the program this semester. She takes over drill training, which teaches ceremonial military maneuvers that instill pride and discipline in a unit. The practice most often demonstrated in the community at parades, sporting events, and graduation.

The drill team travels to other schools for competitions, and Foreman admitted that it has been the unit’s weakest area. “This is Chief Everett’s specialty, so we’ll use her strength to help us improve that area of competition,” he said.

Grenada’s drill team was scheduled to represent the colors at a Memphis Redbirds baseball game on Aug. 21, and Foreman said he has put them up for consideration at NFL, NBA, and MSL (Major League Soccer) events later in the year.

A new area where the Grenada unit has started to shine is in STEM-related activities. Foreman said NJROTC offers classes and competitive teams in four disciplines — robotics, aerial drones, underwater drones, and cybersecurity. He said Grenada is the only unit in Mississippi to offer all four.

“By developing these new areas of military training,” Foreman said, “we’ve been able to attract a more diverse body

of students with interest in science and technology. It really helped push our membership above the critical 100 cadet threshold.”

In May, the unit hosted a drone competition with teams from South Panola. The two schools then competed together in West Virginia at the Robotics Education Competition Foundation’s RAD drone tournament. Grenada’s two teams captured a number of top awards, including programming skills, mechanics and control of flight, and flight crew. Foreman said they won the Tournament Champions and were ranked first and second in the world RAD standings.

The unit has also formed a CyberPatriots team. The national educational program trains students in cybersecurity and other technologies and offers opportunities to compete in hypothetical problem-solving scenarios. At last spring’s state meet, Grenada’s team finished second overall in the state and first for a Navy ROTC program. The team assembled for extra training this summer at a series of practice classes to prepare for the upcoming year’s competition.

Another big development for NJROTC, Foreman said, is the new eligibility for eighth-grade students to participate. He said this eligibility will help the program keep a healthy roll and will give cadets an early start in the unit’s rigorous training and academic preparation.

**See “NJROTC”
continued on page 5**



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Special Ed: On the Move



This summer the Special Education Department moved into new offices in the “Old Central Office” building at GSD. Staff includes (front row, l to r) case manager Memory Britt, IEP specialist Jessica Kirk, (back row, l to r) case manager Allison Williams, Director Aletha S. Simpson, speech language pathologist Connie Poss, and secretary Dru McCord.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

In addition to planning its extensive programming for the new school year, GSD’s Special Education Department spent the summer moving its base of operations.

The new Special Education office is located at 1855 Jackson Ave., and Director Aletha Simpson is pleased with the new accommodations. She said updates to the building, known around the district as “Old Central Office,” provide more efficient use of space and more professional surroundings.

The new offices house staff members with extra rooms for meetings, student evaluations, and extensive record storage, not to mention work space for contracted therapists and specialists who are in and out. “Any day you’re here, you’ll see a different group of faces,” Simpson said.

In addition to their new office, you’ll also find Special Education team members in the classrooms at various schools, most often the Red and Green Top buildings. This is where students need the most help, and it’s often where students are identified as needing special education services. There are currently

four Pre-K classes at the Red Top with certified special education teachers and assistants.

Most people don’t realize the extent of Special Education’s work. Simpson said her department is obligated to evaluate children in the county from the age of three to 21 if they’re suspected of having a disability and are in need of special education services. Even if they’re not enrolled at GSD.

“As a whole, people come to our district because of the level of education that they receive,” Simpson said. “But we frequently have them come here because of the services that we provide, whether through special education or through the MTSS [Multi-Tiered System of Supports] process. They know that we’re reputable and the services we provide are high quality.”

Two special education programs in particular have made GSD a destination for parents of children with special needs — Behavior Solutions and Comprehensive Dyslexia.

The Behavior Solutions program is in its fourth year at Grenada. Erin Boeni leads a team of certified special education teachers with expertise in behavior and autism. They work daily under the school’s psychologist to provide

behavioral support in the classroom, primarily at the elementary schools.

Intervention plans are written for each student so that they receive support and instruction to fit their needs. Simpson said teachers may pull students into small groups to work with them, or they may go into the classroom to support the student and teacher.

“Our goal is always for students to be as independent as possible,” Simpson said. “But sometimes children who have behavioral needs require a little extra support to learn skills and strategies to be successful in their classroom.”

Some of the strategies for the Behavior Solutions program include positive behavior rewards, individualized motivations, and setting personal goals.

The department’s Comprehensive Dyslexia program identifies students with significant reading deficits and matches them with one of four reading specialists. Participation in the program is determined on an individual basis.

Simpson said the district has allocated considerable resources such as special funding and teachers to these efforts with the aim of making Grenada the top dyslexia program in the state.

“We’re blessed here in Grenada to have teachers in the community who have this certification and are already working for us,” Simpson said. “They realize the value that having this specialized training provides to our schools and to our students and their families.”

As the Special Education team adapts to their new surroundings and begins a new school year, it’s a natural time to reflect on their mission.

“No matter the level of the disability, all children can learn,” Simpson said. “And all children are worthy of a high-quality education.”

GSD Parent Resource Center

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Meet the Teacher at GES 4-5



Photo left
Tylan Covington
(right) meets his 4th
grade math teacher,
Ms. Jennings, at
GES 4-5’s annual
Meet the Teacher
event on Aug. 4.



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GHS Band's 'Extraordinary' New Season



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

Trumpet players (left) Jaylan Fray and (right) Tabitha Rinaldi were among the Grenada Band members who came out in the scorching July heat for band camp. Students rehearsed music and learned drill for the band's new halftime show, Alchemy: Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary.

**By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter**

After a year of quarantines and social distancing, the Grenada Band is approaching 2021 with optimism and a sense of rebirth. After all, the marching band's 2021 halftime show, Alchemy: Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary, is inspired by the medieval art of turning lesser metals into gold.

Students began to learn the music and drill for this year's show at the group's annual band camp the last week of July. "It was the hottest week of summer we can remember," said Joe Presley, the program's head director. The extreme temperatures required some shortened outdoor sessions, but in spite of the heat, Presley said, the students showed up excited and ready to perform.

GSD Live Stream Team Returns



Last season, announcer Mike Smith (right) spoke with players (left) Joe Moss and (middle) Brayden Trusty on the GSD Live Stream Team's weekly football coverage.

**By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter**

The GSD Live Stream Team is back this fall to broadcast all GHS football games live over the internet and radio.

This is the fourth season of football live stream coverage, which includes simultaneous broadcast on Grenada's B-100 FM radio station as well as the district's channel on Vimeo — vimeo.com/GS-Dlive

In addition to complete coverage for all scheduled games, the live stream broadcast includes a pre-game Coach's Show, sponsored by Grenada Nissan, and the Kirk Auto Halftime Show. Both segments feature interviews with coaches, players, district staff, and community members.

Rodney Murphy, one of the live stream announcers and host of the Coach's Show, said that last year's attendance restrictions and quarantines affected not only game time, but also hampered the team's ability to get into the schools to shoot video and to do interviews.

"This year we'll work to play catch-up," Murphy said. "We plan to get lots of

folks involved and in front of the camera, so be watching out for us. We may be coming your way in our search for great stories and big personalities!"

Murphy's co-hosts, Mike Smith and Kevin Carnathan, both plan to return to call this year's game.

Last season, Smith ventured out of the press box and reported from the sidelines, where he interviewed coaches and players as the game unfolded. "I'm trying to capture the real-time situation," Smith said. "It's a different side of the game when you get a report from the sidelines. You feel what the players and coaches feel."

The district's Communications Department produces the live stream broadcast, including the pre-game and halftime shows, and they have made upgrades to provide even better, more reliable and informative coverage of these games.

"I think it's a great way to connect the school with the community," said Smith. "Even if you can't be there, you still get a chance to see what's going on." Tune in or log on for the first home game of the season against Horn Lake on Friday, August 27, at 6:30 p.m.

"We didn't get to do a camp last year," said the show's co-director, Chris Sumrall. "Even at football games, the only time the whole band was together was during that three minutes on the field. We probably had the band together more during band camp than we had together all last fall."

The biggest challenge for this year's band is experience, according to Presley. More than half the members are freshmen and sophomores with little experience marching a halftime show and no competitive experience since all band contests were cancelled last fall.

The band is moving forward with hopes for a year that, if not normal, will be a little closer to normal. They have marching competitions scheduled in October, which will take them to Tennessee and Louisiana, and they plan to host the state's Region II marching band evaluations here on October 9.

In the meantime, they'll be perfecting their new halftime show.

Assistant directors Sumrall and Kim Presley developed the show from the idea of turning the ordinary into something extraordinary. They dreamed up two distinct components — visual and musical — that mirror each other on the field.

For the musical component, the directors wanted to expound on familiar sounds, so they went back to the music of Mozart. "His music is far from ordinary, but it's considered ordinary to kids," said Presley. "So we asked ourselves, if we had the genius of somebody with Mozart's ability this day and age, what

would he do with his music?"

They took into account how modern instruments, production, and technology would alter Mozart's classical sound. According to Presley, "We asked ourselves, how can we use that to get the kids to enjoy this genre of music because it's put in their terms?"

The visual inspiration for this year's show came from the four alchemical elements — earth, water, air, and fire. Presley said each element is represented on the field through the color guard flags, costumes, and drill movement. By the time they depict fire, she said, the show reaches its pinnacle of color and energy with a hip-hop Mozart drum feature. "It ends up being a giant party and a lot of energy by the time we reach that part of the show."

Always, as part of their intricate halftime productions, the directors try to produce a show that not only excites the performers and plays to their strengths, but teaches them something as well.

"It's really a great cross-disciplinary educational approach for the kids," Presley said. "They learn the musical historical aspect, then tie it back to science. Art is science, science is art."

If all goes well, the band looks to perform a portion of their halftime show at the first home football game on Friday, August 27, at Charger Stadium.

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"NJROTC"

Continued from Page 3

This year, said Foreman, the NJROTC activities calendar is as busy as he's ever seen it. In addition to attending various meets in drill, fitness, air-rifle, academics, robotics, drones, and more, the unit will also host events, take field trips, and perform community service.

"Last year we finished fifth out of 50 schools," Foreman said, referencing their Area 8 ranking among Navy programs in Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, and the Florida Panhandle.

"This year," he vowed, "we're aiming for top three."

Students who are interested in joining the NJROTC program or learning more about the unit's activities should meet with their counselor or contact Chief Foreman at nforeman@grenadak12.com or 662-226-8596.



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

Tyner Kelly (right) demonstrates underwater drone piloting as Carla Nix (left) observes. The cadets participated in the SeaPerch underwater robotics competition as part of the STEM programming offered in Grenada's NJROTC program.

“6A”

Continued from Page 1

“People perform at the level of their competition,” said Williams. “The hope for me is that our kids become better players. Hopefully it will translate into more scholarships and more opportunities.”

Grenada Band Director Joe Presley said the marching band is excited about moving up to 6A. He said Grenada has always challenged top-class bands when they attend band contests, but it’s Friday nights they’re looking forward to now.

The 6A football schedule means Grenada will host and visit schools with a long track record of excellent band programs. Presley said they look forward to watching these schools’ half-time shows and comparing it against their own.

“Yes, moving to 6A means going to schools that may have twice as many students,” Presley said. “It’s intimidating from a numbers standpoint, but we’ll go compete with anybody, anytime.”



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2021 GHS Freshmen Cheer



Photo left
(back, l to r) Memrie Cox, Belle Belcher, Jillian Dykes, Naima Reed, Faith Arbuckle, Callie Rushing, (front, l to r) Leah Briscoe, Tristin Wilson, Laila Pryor, Demi Burney, Anna Claire Poynor, and Trinity Davis
Not pictured: Coaches Tammy Wilson and Amy Laster

2021 GHS Varsity Cheer



The 2021-2022 cheerleading squads at GSD attended UCA Cheer Camp this summer at the University of Southern Mississippi. The girls returned with a host of high marks and awards, including superior ratings, 2nd place in cheer, 3rd place in dance, and most spirited mascot, along with the prestigious Leadership Award, Traditions Award, and the coveted “Top Banana” inflatable for most spirited squad. (top, l to r) Callie Smith, Madison Hughes, Kate Blankenship/All American, Abbi Jackson Head Captain / All American, Lauren Dungan Assist Head Captain/All American, Hannah Grace Jacks, Katelyn Winters, Autumn Davis, (middle, l to r) Markiya McNeal, Ella Brooke Horan, Kamaria Reed, Zyamarieiona Hammond/All American, Perrin Jackson, Jakaiya Exson, Maddie Ingram, Nadia Reed, (front, l to r) Kiersten Zinn, Shelbie Woodall, Vivian King, Kayla Robinson Co Captain /All American, and Kaylee Whitt

Not pictured: Not pictured: Coaches Tammy Wilson and Amy Laster

College Preparation: Start Packing for the Journey ... Here’s What You’ll Need



The journey to higher education is a long one, and it starts well before you settle on the right school. If you’re dedicated to attending college, then your entire high school experience is the journey.

The peak assignment for your college bid is the application process. If you’re a high school senior, then you need to start this process right away. If you’re an underclassman or even just entering high school, you can make the process easier on yourself by keeping records and files over the next few years to document your academic performance and extra-curricular activities.

So what is a college application? This is what colleges require to consider your enrollment. It can be your

own personal statement about your value and readiness to attend the college of your choice, so it’s nothing you want to throw together at the last minute to beat a deadline.

To maximize your chances of getting in, choose more than one school — five to eight is the recommended number — and apply to each one in the fall semester of your senior year. Most applications are similar, and there are several items you need to prepare that can be used for each school:

Application Form

This is the nuts and bolts of the college application. It contains the standard information about you, your family, where you attended school, your aca-

demc performance, activities outside of school, and your intentions for college life. Most institutions will offer electronic or written applications. Be prepared for application fees in the \$25-\$70 range, though some colleges offer waivers based on financial need.

High School Transcripts

Naturally, grades play a critical role in your college acceptance as well as your chances for financial aid. If you’re just starting out, work hard to keep your grades high and take challenging courses like advanced placement, college-credit, and innovative electives like Project Lead the Way’s engineering and biomedical. This will show admissions officers you took advantage of Grenada High’s most challenging classes and that you’re ready for college-level courses.

It’s also important to establish a relationship with your guidance counselor. Set and keep meetings and let them know whenever you apply to a college. Your counselor will send your transcript, which is simply a record of your high school course load and grades. Your final transcript, which will be completed and sent after graduation, is highly important as colleges want to know if you worked hard your final year or if you slacked off.

Show them you’re an ambitious student who will continue to perform at a high level in college.

Admission Test Scores

Standardized college entrance exams are a way for admission officers to determine if you’re ready for rigorous college courses. The weight of these scores vary from school to school, but a great ACT or SAT score will never hurt your chances of getting in. Try your best, and take the exam early and often to earn your highest score. Colleges only accept scores from the test organization, so refer to the corresponding test group’s website for information on how your grades are submitted.

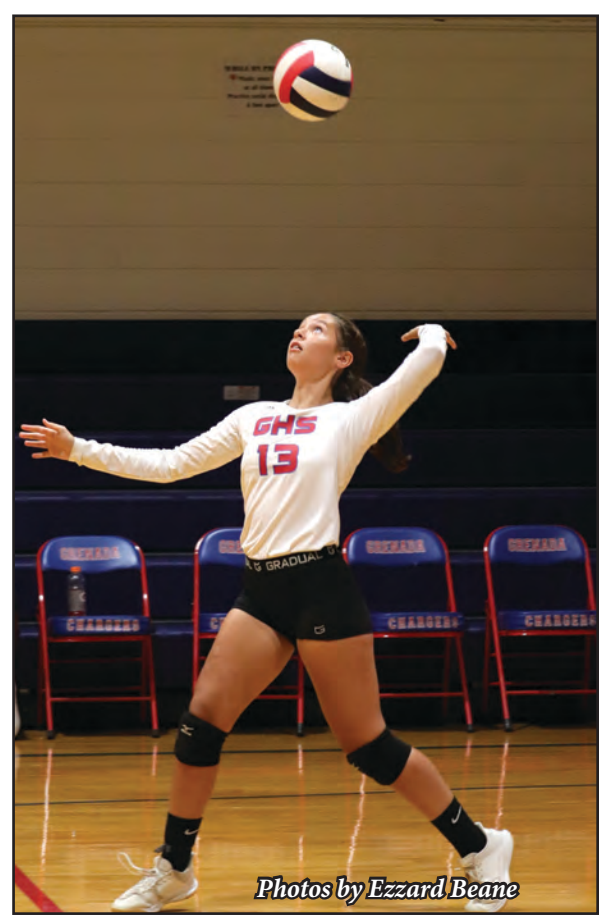
Letters of Recommendation

Some schools require letters of recommendation from teachers, administrators, or work managers. This will help them understand who you are, how hard you’re willing to work, and how you’ve contributed to your community.

See “College”
Continued on page 8

Walmart Save money. Live better.					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
September			1 Band: Full Band Rehearsal 3:40pm - 5:15pm	2 GHS: Cheer Freshman and Varsity Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm @ Armory Band: Front Ensemble 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm @ GHS Auditorium	3 GHS: Football at Pontotoc 7:00pm
5	6 Labor Day Holiday Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm @ GHS Auditorium	7 AmeriCorps: Orientation 7:30am - 4:00pm @ GLAD Conference Room Band: Beginner Parent Meeting with AMRO Music Band Hall 3:30pm - 6:30pm Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm @ GHS Auditorium GHS: Volleyball at East Webster 5:00 & 6:00 5:00pm 9th and JV Football vs. Oxford 5:30pm	8 AmeriCorps: Orientation 7:30am - 4:00pm @ GLAD Conference Room Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm @ GHS Auditorium	9 AmeriCorps: Orientation 7:30am - 4:00pm @ GLAD Conference Room GHS: Cheer Freshman and Varsity Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm @ Armory Band: Front Ensemble 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm @ GHS Auditorium GHS: Volleyball vs Tupelo 5:30 & 6:30 5:30pm GMS: Football at Oxford 5:30pm	10 Visions: School Show @ GHS Auditorium AmeriCorps: Orientation 7:30am - 4:00pm @ GLAD Conference Room GHS: Football at Hernando 7:00pm
12	13 Band: Drum Major Sectional 3:30pm - 5:15pm 9th and JV Football at South Panola 5:30pm Band: Beat the Heat 6:00pm - 8:30pm	14 GHS: Cheer Freshman and Varsity Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm @ Armory Band: Battery Percussion and Sectionals 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 6:00pm @ Visions Classroom GHS: Volleyball vs East Webster 5:00 & 6:00 5:00pm GCTC-Mississippi Safety Services Defensive Driving Course 5:30pm - 9:30pm School Board Meeting 6:00pm	15 GHS: College and Career Fair in GHS Gym 8:00am - 12:00pm Band: Full Band Rehearsal 3:40pm - 5:15pm	16 GHS: Cheer Freshman and Varsity Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm @ Armory Band: Front Ensemble 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm @ Visions Classroom GHS: Volleyball at Oxford 5:00 & 6:00 5:00pm GMS: Football at Tupelo 5:30pm	17 GHS: Football vs. Desoto Central (Homecoming) 7:00pm
19	20 Band: Drum Major Sectional 3:30pm - 5:15pm 9th and JV Football at South Panola 5:30pm Band: Beat the Heat 6:00pm - 8:30pm	21 GHS: Cheer Freshman and Varsity Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm @ Armory Band: Battery Percussion and Sectionals 3:40pm - 5:15pm GHS: Volleyball vs Starkville 5:00 & 6:00 5:00pm	22 Band: Full Band Rehearsal 3:40pm - 5:15pm	23 GHS: Cheer Freshman and Varsity Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm @ Armory Band: Front Ensemble 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm @ Visions Classroom GHS: Volleyball at Pillow Academy 5:00 & 6:00 5:00pm Band: Preliminary Parent Meeting for MHSAA Marching Festival in Band Hall 5:30pm GMS: Football vs. South Panola 5:30pm	24 GHS: Football at Tupelo 7:00pm
26	27 Band: Drum Major Sectional 3:30pm - 5:15pm 9th and JV Football at Oxford 5:30pm Band: Beat the Heat 6:00pm - 8:30pm	28 GHS: Cheer Freshman and Varsity Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm @ Armory Band: Battery Percussion and Sectionals 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 6:00pm @ Visions Classroom GHS: Volleyball at Horn Lake 5:00 & 6:00 5:00pm	29 Band: Full Band Rehearsal 3:40pm - 5:15pm GHS: Cheer Possible Mini Cheer Practice 3:45pm - 4:45pm @ GHS Field	30 GHS: Cheer Freshman and Varsity Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm @ Armory Band: Front Ensemble 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm @ Visions Classroom GHS: Volleyball vs Oxford 5:00 & 6:00 5:00pm GMS: Football vs Oxford 5:30pm	

GHS Volleyball Season Opens with a Win



The Grenada volleyball held its season opener at home, facing Pillow Academy in the first athletic contest of the 2021 school year. The junior varsity team won 2-0 sets while the varsity won 3-1. Chargers who played included (l to r) Olivia Lashley, Briella Simmons, Alexa Milhollen, Alanna Milhollen, and Layla Escobedo. This is the second year for volleyball at GSD. Both teams are coached by Collin Ray.

“College”

Continued from Page 7

Essay

A college wants to know what kind of person you are, not just your grades and course load. Are you creative? Are you a leader? Colleges are looking for these types of students. Think of the college entrance essay as your mission statement about yourself. It allows you to declare why you’d make a good addition to the school and gives you an opportunity to show your personality. This is where you’ll demonstrate what your experiences throughout high school have taught you and how they’ve prepared you for college. It takes a lot of thought and care to craft a memorable essay, so start early. Have parents or teachers read it for clarity and to ensure it’s as flawless as possible.

Extras

Depending on your college path, you may need additional materials for your

application. Some athletes must participate in a recruitment process or compile a highlight reel of their best performances. Some art and music schools require auditions or portfolios of your work.

Certain schools require an in-person interview to be considered. You may wish to arrange one anyway to give college officials the chance to meet you. If you have a dynamic personality, it may give you the edge you need.

And then, of course, there is the financial aid process, which we’ll cover fully in an upcoming installment.

In the meantime, make the effort to gather this information along the way. You’ll have a better idea of what colleges are looking for, and you’ll be able to make better decisions while plotting your high school career. The sooner you begin, the better prepared you will be to get into the school of your choice.

“Coming Back”

Continued from Page 1

Our military training program has been reinstated to full NJROTC status, and they’ve expanded their program to include 8th grade students.

We completed our first summer session of 21st Century skills and tutoring classes for students in grades PreK through 5th grade. The popular, long-running 21st Century classes are made possible at Grenada by a grant from the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center. We eagerly await to see if our grant for GMS and GHS will be renewed at the end of this month.

We’re also in the process of reapplying to continue our status as a District of Innovation, one of few districts in the state of Mississippi granted flexibility to

engineer a learning model unique to our community.

So, you see, the resources are here. The track record of success has been established.

Our goals haven’t changed. We’ve only been set back, like everyone else, by the pandemic.

But the new school year gives us plenty of room to get a running start. We will continue striving for excellence and meeting our goals.

GSD Website

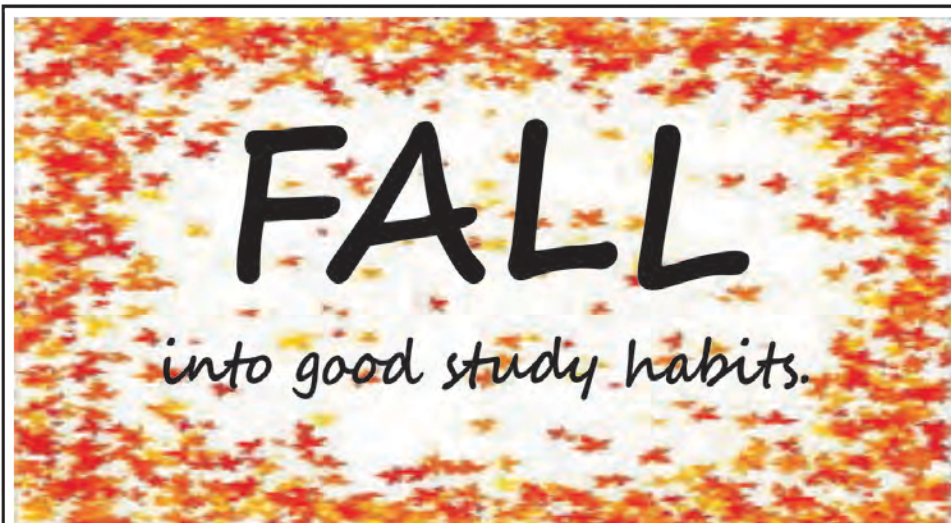
www.grenadak12.com

Did you know?

Announce Birthdays & Anniversaries on the GHS Digital Sign for only \$25 per day!

**Call GSD Communications
662-226-1575**

Must be reserved 4 days in advance.



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